

Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #56

Feb. 28, 1983

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gameszine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY and other multi-player wargames. The subscription rate is 12 issues for \$5.50, or 50¢ each if purchased in smaller increments. For game openings information, see the GAMES OPENINGS section. MM is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. The phone is (805) 834-8409.

NIXON WINNER SELECTED!

It was very gratifying to see the wide-spread response to this year's call for nominations. The winner of the 1982 NIXON AWARD receives special recognition for his/her diplomatic expertise by being acclaimed, "the biggest liar in the hobby". The winner of the first 1980 NIXON AWARD was Al Pearson. The 1981 winner was Kathy Byrne. And the winner of the 1982 NIXON is Mike Mazzer! Congratulations, Mike! The infamous oreator of "Young Mazzerman" was the choice of many -- a tribute to the impression he has made on the hobby as a whole (Mike is in numerous games). See the end of the GAMES section for the winning essay!

A copy of THE PRINCE arrived recently, issue # 8. Jim Meinel, 628 Whitworth Lane So. Renton, WA 98055, a hobby stalwort, is the publisher and makes it available for the very low cost of 10/\$2.50. He charges a \$5.00 gamefee (no NMR Deposit) in openings he has in a regular DIPLOMACY gam, non-DIAS, non-black press, three week deadlines, and no preference lists taken. If you'd like a fast-moving gamestart real soon, this looks like a good bet. Write to Jim at the above address: sending him a 20¢ stamp should get you your THE PRINCE real soon.

The winners of the 1982 FRESHMAN ZINE POLL have been released. Thanks to Soott Hanson for conducting the poll . . .

| | avg. | pref. | total | NV |
|---|------|-------|-------|----|
| #1 <u>MAGUS</u> (Steve Langley) | 8.55 | 7.84 | 8.20 | 22 |
| 2 <u>PERELANDRA</u> (Pete Gaughan) | 7.38 | 6.00 | 6.69 | 13 |
| 3 <u>WINSOME/LOSESOME</u> (Judy Winsome) | 6.95 | 5.92 | 6.44 | 22 |
| 4 <u>DAMN THE TORPEDOS</u> (Gregg Fritz) | 7.35 | 5.13 | 6.24 | 17 |
| 5 <u>NORTH SEALTH WEST GEORGE</u> (T.Tallman) | 6.79 | 5.22 | 6.01 | 19 |
| 6 <u>NO FIXED ADDRESS</u> (Steve Hutton) | 6.88 | 4.79 | 5.84 | 26 |
| 7 <u>THE PRINCE</u> (Jim Meinel) | 6.74 | 4.09 | 5.42 | 23 |
| 8 <u>MODERN PATRIOT</u> (Bill Highfield) | 5.55 | 2.94 | 4.25 | 20 |
| 9 <u>YOU KNOW MY NAME</u> (Keith Sherwood) | 5.00 | 2.13 | 3.57 | 6 |

Congratulations to Steve Langley for the outstanding showing of MAGUS. M is one of the hottest new zines around and its high finish in this poll is a pretty good indicator on how it will place in the upcoming 1983 RUNESTONE ZINE & GM POLL. . .

* * * * *

"As flies to wanton boys, are we to the
gods;
They kill us for their sport."

KING LEAR IV, 1, 36.

MORE STUFF

The Seventh Annual North American Zine Poll and the Sixth Annual North American Gameemaster Poll will be combined into the 1983 RUNESTONE ZINE & GM POLL, headed up by Randolph Smyth. For the GM Poll, you are urged to vote for any GM in whose postal game or games you were a player during the period beginning April 1, 1982, and whom you played under for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Rate each GM on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Others may not rate Gms in whose games they were not active players during the poll period. Violations of these rules will result in invalidation of the entire ballot.

Rate each GM by name, not by zine. Votes which do not use the Gm's name will not be tabulated. To help in tabulation, please list the Gms in alphabetical order by surname.

For the x Zine poll, you may rate any publication substantially devoted to DIPLOMACY (including genzines, house zines of organizations, etc.) which has published more than two issues since April 1, 1982. Rate the series, not individual issues. Rate only zines of which you have seen enough issue to form an objective assessment of the quality of the publication; do not base votes on hobby feuds, agreement or disagreement with the editor's opinions, etc. Rate each zine on a scale of 1 to 10 (0 being the lowest and 10 the highest), no fractions. Specify subzines and rate them separately from the parent zine: subzines will be listed separately in an independent list.

Publishers may not rate their own zines; violation will result in invalidation of the entire ballot. Sign your ballot and indicate one way in which you participate in the hobby (to establish eligibility (i.e. - player, publisher, parasite)) All votes will be confidential. Please list the zines in alphabetical order to make tabulation of results easier. I reserve the right to tabulate ballots which do not follow the format outlined above. The deadline for both polls is July 4, 1983. Results will be tabulated as soon thereafter as possible, and will be released as they become available to anyone wishing to phone (403) 526-7963. If you'd like a copy of the results, send \$1.00 (no US stamps) to Randolph Smyth, "Runestone Poll", 212 Aberdeen St. S.E., Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 0R1 CANADA. Please rate only North American zines ((the above was sort of quoted but not quite from the notice Randolph sent)).

Please send a ballot in by the deadline. I urge you all to participate and support the Poll.

This issue will be packed with good stuff - in fact I have so much that some will have to wait until next time. This issue will contain the latest game results, the winning NIXON nomination, some letters, and an article if there's room. And on pg. 11 is a rare peek at some hobby personalities. Can you guess who the two at the top (or the bottom) are? Unfortunately, this issue is going to hit the mails a couple of days late. I've been ill for about 2½ weeks now with varying degrees of severity. The past few days when I would normally have been typing I was sitting around with my head pounding instead. Hope you understand. As of today (Tues 3/1) I feel better but I'm still far from "normal". The weather here may be partly to blame. Here in the massive San Juáquin Valley, we hardly ever hear of any flooding. But we have gotten an incredibly heavy rainfall total this year and just outside of town it's actually flooding with people being issued sandbags and the whole bit! We haven't really suffered much from it other than my being sick and being able to shake it. I talked to several people on the phone this last week and it sounds as if it's pretty widespread all over the country: everybody has a cold or just had one. Oh well . . .

One thing I left out of the above list was something Mike Coburn recently gave me - two typed stencils! Yes, Mike has decided to reveal his side of the story in the past Napoleonic Battles. I hope you enjoy it!

And now, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING #5 coming up . . .

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING #5a MURD'RING MINISTERS supplement

Those of you in 1982CO will be receiving this issue immediatly and the rest of you will see this in the next MM.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING is the minizine which carries the bad news of GMing corrections and other news both good and bad.

First, the corrected game report for 1982CO:

It seems as though I managed to omit the moves for France last time, plus there were two errors in the Supply Center Chart. The Fall 1903 results for Bill Hugh's France and the corrected SC Chart follow . . .

1982CO FALL 1903

France (Hugh): A Bre-PIC; A BEL-s-A Bre-Pic; F GAS-Mid; F Spa(sc)-POR; A MAR-Bur.

1982CO 1903 Supply Center Chart

| | | |
|--|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Austria- Home, Ser, Gre, Pol, | (5)+1 | (one short) |
| England- Home, Pol, Nwy, STP, BRE | (5) 0 | (even since a unit was annihilated) |
| France- War, Bre, Mar, Spa, Por, BEL | (4)-1 | |
| Germany- Home, Den, Hol, SWE, PAR | (7)+2 | |
| Italy- Home, Tun | (4) 0 | |
| Russia- Mos, War, Sev, Rum, SWE, STP | (5) 0 | |
| Turkey- Home, BUL | (4)+1 | |

Everything else is as reported in MM#55. The deadline for Winter 1903 AND Spring 1904 is still Feb. 25, 1983. To separate seasons a total of at least two players must request it.

GAME OPENINGS

Regular DIPLOMACY - MM-19 is now in the process of filling. Two signed up so far, but there could be more by the time MM #56 goes out. I'll mention in the WRAP-UP how many are signed up for it. The gamefee is \$6.00 plus a refundable NMR Deposit of \$3.00. You must maintain a subscription to MM. X The game will feature gray press. Preferences are welcome but final assignment is up to the discretion of the GM. That about covers it. Houserules are available upon request (SASE will get them to you fastest).

MACHIAVELLI -

Signups are still frozen on this one so far. Broshot is still interested. Palter is paid. Anyone else want XX in?. You must maintain a sub to MM. Gamefee of \$6.00 plus NMR Deposit of \$3.00.

"Thus we play the fools with the time,
and the spirits of the wise sit in the clouds and
mock us."

HENRY IV, PART II, II, 11, 155.

THE GAMES!!

1982HZ SUMMER 1902 Austrian A Ser-r-BUD

1982HZ FALL 1902 TWO INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTS HELP WOPS SEIZE TRIESTE!

Austria (Rodriguez): A Gal-BOH; A VIE-s-F Tri; ...; A BUD-s-Russian A Rum;
 F Tri-H/a/.
 England (Gannon): F NWY-H; F EDI-Nth; A YOR-H; F ENG-Mid.
 France (Stafford): F Nth-Nwy/d/-r-Nwg,Ska,Lon,OTB; F Mid-NAT; F SPA(sc)-Mid;
 A POR-Spa; A Gas-BRE.
 Germany (Ozog): A TYA-s-Italian A Ven-Tri; A Ber-SIL; A DEN-H; F Hol-NTH;
 F HEL-s-F Hol-Nth; A BEL-H.
 Italy (Torkelson): A Ven-TRI; A Gre-ALB; F TUN-H; F Ion-ADR.
 Russia (P.Lahue): A WAR-s-German A Ber-Sil; F SWE-Nwy; A Lvn-STP; A UKR-s-F Sev;
 F SEV-s-A Rum; A RUM-s-Turkish A Ser.
 Turkey (Jones): A SER-s-Italian A Ven-Tri; A BUL-s-A Ser; F BLA-s-A Bul;
 A ARM-H.

Winter AND Spring 1903 due April 8, 1983.

1982HZ 1902 Supply Center Chart

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Austria- Bud,Vie,TRI,Sev..... | (2) | -1 (was one short) |
| England- Home,Nwy..... | (4) | 0 |
| France- Home,Spa,Por..... | (5) | 0 (unless F Nth-r-LON,then (6)+1) |
| Germany- Home,Bel,Hol,Den..... | (6) | 0 |
| Italy- Home,Gre,TUN,TRI..... | (6) | +2 |
| Russia- Home,Swe,Rum..... | (6) | 0 |
| Turkey- Home,Bul,SER..... | (5) | +1 |

1982HZ Press-

SWITZERLAND-TSAR PHILLIP:

Happy Birthday.

Sin and Sorrow fill the air,
 People dying everywhere,
 It's a pity no one cares,
 Happy Birthday.

MOSCOW: After killing 4000 communists, there was a small uprising in St. Petersburg. I am sending my crack Royal Guard from Livonia to put down the uprising. This uprising has caused a shift in my government, and subsequently a shift in foreign policy. I hope my southern neighbor can see that this can be to his advantage!

ENGLAND-OBVIOUS F/G ALLIANCE: We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender. (Well, it worked before).

* * * * *

1982 IT WINTER 1901

Austria- Builds A BUD
 England- Builds F LON,F LPL
 France- Builds F BRE,F MAR
 Germany- Builds A KIE,A BER
 Spring 1902 due April 8, 1983.

Italy- Builds F NAP
 Russia- Builds F STF(nc),A WAR
 Turkey- Builds F SMY

1982IT Press-

RUSSIA-ITALY: A toast to the lady, gentlemen, may she live long and prosper - (hiccup) - 'til game's end when we may toast her again.

ENGLAND-GM: You'll never see the Brunswick Lancers! Dutch Grenadiers rout quicker than cavalry can move!

GM-England: Yuk, yuk, very funny . . .

Russia-GERMANY: Can you keep an agreement? I'll honor our pact as long as you don't violate Sweden. Do you catch my meaning??!

ENGLAND-FRANCE: Keep your head down.

((1982IT press con'd next pg.))

1982IT Press (Con'd)

ENGLAND-RUSSIA: Go South, young man, go south.
 RUSSIA-TURKEY: Do you think that the Austrian Subway System is in drastic need of repairs considering their new fare increase? I think we ought to put an end to the Peoples' suffering in Austira and go for athe main Railway Station!! (Is this more understandable - Ron??)
 GM-RUSSIA: It sounds to me like you're heading for Auetria. Is that what you meant?
 ENGLAND-GM: Add Russian line infantry to the list of Dutch Grenadier terrifiers!
 GM-ENGLAND: OK, the Dutch Boye will have to go looking for Russian line troops next time we play and we'll see how tough they are!!

* * * * *

1981CT GM Note - The Italian A Nap is really a F NAP

1981CT SUMMER 1908 Austrian A Mun-r-TYA.

1981CT FALL 1908 AUSTRIAN EMPIRE DWINDLES!

Austria (Johnson): A Tri-VEN; A TYA-s-A Tri-Ven; A Vie-GAL; A BUD-s-A Vie-Gal; A Ser-Rum/d/-r-Alb,OTB;

England (Fassio): A Nwy-STP; F BAR-s-A Nwy-STP; A Edi-NWY; F NTH-c-A Edi-Nwy; F SKA-SWE; F Hol-HEL; A Ruh-HOL; A KIE-Ber.

France (Hanson): F ENG-H; A MUN-s-English A Kie/OTM/; A SII-PRU; F Tus-LYO; F Lyo-WES; F Tun-ION; F TYS-s-F Tun-Ion.

Italy (Williams): F NAP-s-French F Tys-Ion/NSO/; A ROM-Nap.

Russia (Rodriguez): A BER-H;

Turkey (Greenwood): A STP-H/d/-r-Lyh,Mos,OTB; A Ukr-WAR; A Gal-Bud/d/-r-Ukr,Boh, SII,OTB; A Bul-SER; A RUM-s-A Bul-Ser; F Bla-CON; F Aeg-GRE; F Alb-TRI; F ADR-s-F Alb-Tri; A Ven-s-F Alb-Tri/d/-r-Pie,Tus, Apu,OTB; F Ion-Tys/d/-r-Eas,Aeg,Alb,OTB.

Winter 1908 AND Spring 1909 due April 8, 1983.

1981CT 1908 Supply Center Chart

| | |
|---|--------|
| Auetria- Bud, TYA , Vie, Ser , Mun , VEN..... | (3)-2 |
| England- Home, Den, Swe, Kie, Nwy, Hol, STP..... | (9)+1 |
| France- Home, Spa, Por, Tun, Del, MUN..... | (8)+1 |
| Italy- Nap, Rom..... | (2) 0 |
| Russia- Ber..... | (1) 0 |
| Turkey- Home, Bul, Gre, War, Mos, Sev, Yeh , Rum, STP , SER, TRI..... | (11) 0 |

1981CT Press-

LONDON: General "Wrong Way" Fazman, creator of last issue's snafu over Berlin, has been relieved of command and sent south for a rsst. South America, that is. The new regime will settle the "Berlin Problem" this time, hopefully.

VIENNA: "The APE is dead!"

ENGLAND-FRANCE: Wanna help? Regardless, we English salute our valiant Gallic compatriots, as they sally forth to "have at" The Infidel.

LON-TURKEY: Sorry, old bean. Best of luck and en garde!

LONDON-ITALY: Whoever you may be, sir, consider joining the good guys! We offer RP&P (Rape, Pillage, & Plunder) at discount prices.

LONDON-RUSSIA: (Die Die Dis)¹⁰. Nothing personal, mind you.

* * * * *

"Reputation, reputation, reputation!
 O! I have lost my reputation, I have
 lost the immortal part of myself, and
 what remains is bestial."

OTHELLO II, 111, 270.

"The kiss you take is better than you
 give."

TROILUS AND GRESSIDA IV, v, 38.

1981AY GM Note- Turkish F LPL was omitted from the list of holding Turkish units.

Also omitted were the orders Austrian A GRE & A SER-s-F Aeg-Bul(sc)

1981AY FALL 1908 SULTAN RETURNS AS ENGLISH MONARCH VACATIONS!

Austria (Lucas): F BUL(sc)-Con; A GRE-Bul; F Ion-AEG; F Alb-ION; A UKR-s-German
A War-Mos; A GAL-s-A Ukr; A RUM-Sev; A BUD-s-A Ser-Rum; A SER-Rum;
A APU-Ven.
England (Gray): NMR; F ENG; F DEN; F SWE-H; F Nwy-H/d/-r-Nwg,Bar,OTB.
France (Winger): A PIE-Ven; A BUR-Bel; A PIC-s-A Bur-Bel; A PAR-Bur; F Bre-MID.
Germany (Albrecht): A War-MOS; F Ska-NWY; A STP-s-F Ska-Nwy; F NTH-s-F Ska-Nwy;
A Mun-KIE; A RUH-s-F Bel; F BEL-s-F Nth; A Edi-YOR.
Turkey (McCloud): A Ank-CON; F BLA-s-A Ank-Con; A ARM-s-A Sev; A SEV-H; A Mos-s-Germ.
A War/d/-r-Lvn,OTB; F LPL-H.

Winter 1908 AND Spring 1909 due April 8, 1983.

1981AY 1908 SUPPLY CENTER CHART

Austria- Home,Ven,Rum,Nap,Rom,Tun,Gre,Ser,BUL.....(11)+1
England- Lon,~~Stt~~,~~Nth~~,Den,SWE.....(3)-1
France- Home,Par,Spa.....(5) 0
Germany- Home,Hol,Swe,War,Bel,Edi,NWY,STP,MOS.....(11)+3 (only room for 2)
Turkey- Home,Sev, ~~V.V.~~ Lpl,~~Mos~~.....(5)-1

*Would John H. Masters, 25711 No. Vista Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 please standby for England?

1981AY Press-

PARIS-LONDON: Hold out, the Cavalry will come to help you.
AUSTRIA-PARIS: Sure, hold it out long enough and some horse will step on it.
PARIS-BERLIN: Hold out and Calvary will be there for you, too.
PARIS-BUDAPEST: I hope you don't mind this brief step off in Venice but it can't be all gravy for you.
AUSTRIA-RB: Sorry to see Larry McCloud didn't submit orders. He is a very capable player and I hope everything is OK with him. And since I'm handing out praise, I think you and your GMing are tops.
RB-AUSTRIA: Thanks, even after I omitted two of your units last time, you still feel that way?! Thanks, I appreciate it. Yes, Larry is a very good player and I was able to speak with him on the phone not long ago and he says that things are more under control for him now at work etc. so you'll still have to contend with him!

1982CO WINTER 1903

Austria- Builds A VIE Italy- No adj
England- No adj Russia- No adj
France- Disbands F Por Turkey- Builds A SMY
Germany- Builds A MUN & F KIE

1982CO SPRING 1904 AUSTRIAN EMPEROR RETURNS TO THRONE!

Austria (McCloud): A Gre-BUL; F AEG-s-A Gre-Bul; A Bud-SER; A Tri-TYA; A Vie-BOH.
England (Olsen): F NTH-s-F Nwy; F NWY-s-German A Swe; F Eng-BEL; F BRE-s-F Nat_mid;
F Nat-MID.
France (Hugh): A Bel-Bur/a/; A PIC-Bre; A MAR-s-A Bel-Bur; F GAS-s-A Pic-Bre.
Germany (Swartz): A BUR-Gas; A PAR-Pic; A MUN-Bur; A RUH-s-English F Eng-Bel;
F Kie-HOL; F Bal-DEN; A SWE-s-F Bal-Den.
Italy (Palter): A PIE-Mar; F TYS-s-F Ion; F ION-s-Austrian A Gre/OTM/; A TUN-H.
Russia (J.Beck): A LVN-s-A StP; A STP-s-A Lvn; F SKA-Swe; F BLA-Con; A Ank/d/-r-Sev,Syr,OTB.
Turkey (Gorham): F Bul(sc)-Bla/imp/-/a/; A CON-Bul; A Smy-ARM; A ANK-s-A Smy-Arm.

Fall 1904 due April 8, 1983.

1982CO Press will appear on the next page . . .

"Doomsday is near; die all, die merrily."

HENRY IV, PART I, IV, 1, 110.

1982CO Press-

ENGLAND-RUSSIA: Your invitation for our seven armies to visit sunny Vladivostok has been accepted, however, in order to get there we will have to catch the Trans-Siberian at St. Pete. Don't worry, we'll only move there in a Spring season and then absolutely promise to order "A StP-Vladivostok" in the fall.

GERMANY-WORLD: OK, who's been testing secret weapons? Do we have an evil alchemist in our midst? First the French vanish without a trace (although that's not a bad idea) then who's next? Come on - 'fess up - who did it?

LONDON-PARIS: I know you are a very special person, that's what worries me. For all I know you may be secretly a disguised Consummate Genius.!

FRANCE-WORLD: Listen -- it's very quiet on the Italian-German front -- it's even quieter on the Austrian-German front -- and my buddy Russian is making the best of the Russian E-G front!! My four units are tying the E-G alliance up in France and they are leaving open supply centers for the intelligent player to go after -- help me boys as I can't hold 'em off forever!!

ENGLAND-AUSTRIAN STANDBY: Don't be POKEY about showing us some of your ANTICS! (In joke, in joke). Actually I am somewhat concerned about the possibility of Bumpas coming in -- the balance of the game might be disrupted if Jim wrote a letter or something. If he gets the position I advocate that he be forced to renounce the use of the spoken/written word for the duration of his time in the game.

BAKERSFIELD: Many thanks go to Jim Bumpas, whose standby orders were not needed as Larry will be keeping the position.

LONDON-MARSEILLES: 'On your humble knees'? I've never seen humble knees before. What do they look like?

FRANCE-CHICKEN-PLUCKER: I'll draw one card to an inside straight -- just cause I like the way the cards are falling.

ENGLAND-GM: In the name of humanity, Ron -- no more letters from Gary! I know you despise him, as everyone does, but why must you make him look ridiculous by printing his letters?

ENGLAND-GARY: What do you mean it's not my turn? You forfeit your turn every time you write some silly thing about dead finches or something. Oh, by the way, for concerned MM readers, Elsie (th finch) died last month. And no, Olga had nothing to do with it!

BAKERSFIELD-ENGLAND: Are you sure that Olga had nothing to do with it? Everyone who attended PudgeCon seemed very concerned that Olga's jumping at the cage would give poor Elsie a heart attack! And now look at the sad news you bring . . .

* * * * *

1981D GM Note: I flubbed up on Germany's Winter Season last issue. Please correct your game report to show:

1981D WINTER 1910

Germany- Builds F KIE, A DER; A Bul-r-SER.

1981D SPRING 1911 DRAW & CONCESSIONS FAIL!! WAR CONTINUES!!

England (Arnawoodian):

F ADR-AIb; F ION-Eas; F NAP-Ion; A MUN-Tya; F Spa(sc)-MAR;
F LYO-s-F Spa(sc)-Mar; F Eng-DRE; F MID-s-F Eng-Bre;
A BEL-H; A RUH-H; F NTH-s-F Den; F DEN-s-F Swe; A STP-H;
F Swe-s-F Den/d/-r-Pic,Gas,OTB.

France (Gray):

NMR! A Bre-H/d/-r-Pic,Gas,OTB; A FAR-H.

Germany (Langley):

A Gas-DUR; A Mar-s-A Gas-Dur/d/-r-Gas,OTB; A PIE-Tya;
A Ser-TRI; A GRE-Alb; A Sev-UKR; A War-GAL; A Pru-SIL;
A MOS-StP; F Bal-SWE; F DOT-s-F Bal-Swe; F KIE-Den;
A HOL-Kie; A DER-s-A Hol-Kie.

Turkey (MacFarlane):

F BLA-s-A Bul; A DUL-H; F AEG-Eas; F CON-Aeg.

Fall 1911 due April 8, 1983.

* I will not call a standby for France as I'm sure Jim will remain in the game - should he NMR again, however, France will go into CD.

1981D Press is on the next page . . .

1981D Press-

SWITZERLAND: Our analysts have drawn a black picture of continued war between two great powers. Germany seems doomed to fall between the might of the English and Turkish fleets. Can France rally in time to even the odds? (Can pigs fly?) Will the dread NMR turn the war into a rout?

BAKERSFIELD-SWITZERLAND: Spoken with true clairvoyance!

MM-18 becomes 1983F!

1983F SPRING 1901 WAR BEGINS AS NATIONS SAVAGELY ATTACK EACH OTHER!!

Austria (Hare): A VIE-Gal; A Bud-GER; F Tri-ALB.
 England (Donop): F LON-Eng; A Lpl-WAL; F Edi-NTH.
 France (Coturn): F BRE-Eng; A Par-GAS; A Mar-SPA.
 Germany (Gardner): A Mun-SIL; A Ber-KIE; F Kie-DEN.
 Italy (Cannon): E Nap-ION; A VEN-H; A Rom-APU.
 Russia (Scheifler): F Sev-ARM; A WAR-Gal; A Mos-UKR; F StP(sc)-BOT.
 Turkey (Schwautz): A Con-BUL; F Ank-BLA; A Smy-ANK.
 Fall 1901 due April 8, 1983.

1983F Press-

ITALY-UNIVERSE (THIS MEANS YOU!): Since those of you on the west coast receive MM much sooner than us here in the east, I would appreciate it if you wrote to me as soon as possible to compensate for the time lag in communications.

ITALY-GM: I know I have a psychotic personality, but the least you could do is list me at one address. When I am Michael Cannon, I live at 3204 Frederick Hall.

BAKERSFIELD-ITALY: Did I screw up your mail last time by listing you as "Mike"? Sorry about that, Michael.

ITALY-WORLD: Pope Michaelangelo notifies the ambassadors of the other European powers that the humble government of Italy has adopted a "wait and see" attitude until we are given a "signa from Goda".

MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY LIST

Signed up for Regular DIPLOMACY standbys are:

Larry McCloud, Dan Gorham, Jim Gray, Jim Bumpas, Jack Masters, John MacFarlane, John Beck, Al Rodriguez, Bill Hugh, Ron Kelly, Steve Arnawoodian, Mike Coburn, Jerry Lucas, Jim Williams, Stan Johnson, Scott Hanson, and Phil Lahue.

There is no cost to be a standby player. Requests are made randomly and haphazardly; but hopefully there will continue to be not very many standby requests! Thanks to all of the above!

I still need some MACHIAVELLI standby players . . .

THE ORIGIN OF THE TITLE- MURD'RING MINISTERS

Periodically, I like to explain the origin of MM's name. Once in awhile a new subscriber will ask about it and sometimes even an older subber will inquire. MM gains its title from one of my favorite works of William Shakespeare: MACBETH. You have noticed that MM is liberally sprinkled with quotations from Shakespeare - it has from its inception and always will. The title is taken from Lady Macbeth's soliloquy where she asks the dark agents of the night to take away her woman's weaknesses and make her as strong as a man for the upcoming murder of King Duncan. The quote appears on pg. 12.

(or the Dutch Grenadiers choke again)

by Mike Coburn

As Ron has mention, 15mm Napoleonic have become the current rage around these parts. In one of our most recent battles, The Battle of Four Roads the object was to control a hill that dominated the intersection of four roads. Ron and a friend of his named Tom were ~~the~~ commanding the French forces which included Swiss, Neapolitians, Nassau, westphalians and, of course, Rons infamous Dutch Grenadiers of the Gaurd.

The Allies were Jon Baldwin with his Russians, Dan Johannesen with the Prussians and a group of late arriving Brunswickers, and myself with my Austro-Hungarian force.

The hill that each side was to control was place by Ron, since it wa^s his scenario, in the ~~center~~ middle of the board. The allies planned to place the Austrian main force to our left, with the object of taking two small farm complexes and of securing that flank. The prussians were placed on the right with the goal of advancing through the light woods on that flank and to hold. Jon, with the Russians was to take and hold the hill. Two baatalions of Austrians, plus two Austrian Cavalry Regiments were designated as the ~~xxxx~~ reserve force. Ron will have to explain his plans in the rebuttal.

The battle open with a clear but hazy has both sides began to deploy. However, the weather quickly turned foggy, and there-by neatrualizing much of the cannons effectiveness. This caused both sides to push forward their lead units in order to quickly grab, or as it appeared on RON's sided to cut it off. In the center Jon ran over the hill with some Cossacks that threatened the flank of Rons undeploy artillery. Ron rushed forward a regiment of Cuirassiers to counter the cossack on their flank. But Jon's russian DRagoons were then able to hit the flank of the now exsposed Cuirassiers and sent them packing, minus some 200 of their friends. As Jon continued his charge he was able to over-run the undeployed guns, but was unable to disable the guns, an error that cost many lives later in the battle.

At the same time Dan advance his Prussians through the woods, but was slowed because of the presence of French light Cavalry. On the other side the Austrian Hussars of Lichtenstein charge the lead units of a French heavy cavalry brigade. These hussars over-ran the Neapolitian Gaurd Dragoons and hit the French Dragoons with out breaking stride. The mellee between these two units evenually caused the French Dragoons to retire in disorder and kept most of the Frnch heavy Cavalry tied up all day. However the Austrian attempt to capture the second farm was repulse by musket fire of a French light unit.

About a third of the way through the battle the fog lifted and a massive gunnery duel began between the batteries. The largest sucçesses were almost simultaneous as 3/4 of the Prussian battery was taken down at once, while a French battery was totally destroyed by the Russian howisters at the same time.

With their artillery destroyed, the French light Cavahry was forced to withdraw. The Prussians were able to advance along with the newly arrived Brunswick force, which included Ron's favorited the famous Brunswick Lancers. In fact, a morale check caused by the retreat bringing tales of the Lancers arrival, caused one of the Dutch Grenadier battalions to fall back, not a bad idea since the last time the Dutch saw the Brunswickers half a battalion of these boys didn't come back.

As the battle got latter the Austrian flank quieted down for lack of reserves and the fact that the battery which was earlier over-ran by the Russian Dragoons was back in French hands, creating a deadly fire on that flank. The prussians continued a slow advance on their flank as the French massed in the middle for one last try at dislodging the Russian infantry from the hill.

((Con'd on next pg.))

The French attack in the center was to be headed by the only fresh troops ~~XXX~~ ableable, the three battalions of the Dutch grenadiers. Has the grenadiers advance Jon ~~XXXXXX~~ positioned his Russian in a checker board fashion on the hill in order to retain fresh troops to counter attack.

The Dutch grenadiers crossed the ridge and overran one of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Russian battalions but another held and was locked in melee with the French. The advancing Dutch unit soon ran into another Russian line unit and exposed its flank to both a Russian Guard unit and a Austrian line unit from the reserve. Not surprizinly this unit quicky surrendered. At almost the same time the Dutch unit melæing the Russian unit on the other half of the hill finally gave up the goast and retreated in disorder. This event cause most of the rest of the French force to fall back.

Ron decided at this point that the battle was lost and conceded. The last thing heard from Ron was a complained, in some-what strained language, wondering how Russian line troops defeated his "crack" Dutch Grenadiers.

Well thats how it goes sometimes. Every player has seen his elite troops fold up, but these Dutch boys haven't had a good battle in a long time. Maybe they should stick to making paint. Right Ron?

Right now we're planning a big battle in the middle of March, either recreating a portion of the battle of Leipzig or the battle of Kulm, which occurred after Dresden. If you have any 15mm Napoleanics and would like to play, or even to watch drop a line to Ron and he'll pass it on to me. If you have troops please make a list of the units and their nationality.

((Mike wanted me to make a "rebuttal" and explain the French plans for the battle. Very simply, it was to be the only one with intact units on the hilltop at the end of the scenario. We were handicapped in a few ways I won't expound upon at this time. The Allied opponents are good players so we'll just have to play better from now on. As for the "Dutch Boys" making paint . . . just wait until the next battle -- they'll be painting the town red . . . with Austrian blood!! - RD))

* * * * *

THE NIXON AWARD WINNER

by

Bob Olsen

The previous NIXON AWARD winners have been, to be honest, not really deserving of this award. First off, I have only the highest respect for Honest Al Pearson, and cannot believe he could deserve such an award (now will you get out of my country, Al?). And, of course, it's simply inconceivable that my honey, Kathy Byrne, could do anything to merit the NIXON. Plus, neither of these people is a Californian, and therefore, I very much feel that the NIXON should this year return to the land of its birth and a Californian be given the honor.

What do we think of when we think of Richard Nixon? The imposing physical stature and dignity of Al Pearson? The incendiary mixture of beauty and brains of Kathy Byrne? X Certainly not! We think of shifty, beady eyes; a sneaky expression; dirty tricks; mental and moral corruption; wild and grotesque abuses of power; the intended destruction of all forms of democratic government; and, of course, being a Californian. The question then becomes, are there any Californians who perfectly embody the principles for which Nixon stands? I say yes! I say these ideals are perfectly incarnated in my nominee -- Mike Mazzer!!!

It's not enough for the NIXON AWARD winner to be a mendacious excrescence; if this were so, then we could shuffle off the prize on Bruce Linsey or somebody like that. No, there's more to it than that. It's not enough that the winner be an extremely talented liar -- no, far better that he should be someone, like Mazzer, who is totally incapable of even recognizing the truth. I mean, I left the truth lying out on the

MM picture page

11



Left: Captured in a rare photograph here is a well-known Hobby personality. Is it Cilligan and the Skipper? Is it Abdul Gondlahar and Admiral Nelson? Is it a view inside "The Midway", a well-known Bakersfield gay bar? Is it some perverted Turk whose ship has finally come in? Is it the Lore Ranger and Torto? Is the guy on the left wearing a dress or does he just reed parts as baggy as those to hold what's in them? Submit your guess now! I'll tell you who they are in the next MM.

* * * * *



Right: Pictured here from left to right is Gary Coughlan, Eric Ozog, and Bob Olser. This snapshot was taken as Gary and Bob were shaking hands signalling the end of their "feud" as Eric officiated. You can tell by the expressions on their faces that: 1) Gary is in great pain as Bob is obviously squeezing as hard as he can with his "vise-like grip"; 2) Bob can hardly avoid cackling heinously as he applies the pressure; and 3) Eric is obviously on drugs.

* * * * *

Right: Seen here is two of the Hobby's most notorious members. Their true identity is unknown although they have been known to use several aliases. "Donny and Clyde", "The DYNAMIC Duo", and "Fibber McGee and Molly" are just a few. Beware if you see them: they are known to always go about carrying large, sharp knives (sometimes leaving them in the back of some poor victim). If you should see these two anywhere, call the FBI (Female Body Inspectors) immediately!



A NIXON FOR ALL SEASONS (Con'd from pg.10)

street once, and Mazzer tripped over it, fell flat on his face, and said, "Hey -- what's this?" This is a man who will never use the truth when a lie would do half as well -- I could mention certain games, like MAGUS's "Press Gang" where Mike would rather be stabbed every season by his "ally" than tell the truth to anybody . . . but Ron, I know that you have Mike all figured out, having read him like a book for 10 these many years.

My dear friend Mike recently requested that I stop so continually praising him in print, and telling the world of his brilliant playing style, and instead say things like he's "Honest but harmless, a bumbler really". How brilliantly Nixon-like -- sub-ornation of perjury right before our very noses. Is this, indeed, the fabled "modified limited hang-out" or what? How many times has he left me "Twisting slowly, slowly in the wind"? How many "Saturday Night Massacres" have I and his other allies endured at his sadistic hands? Who else in all the world can you go to, and suggest that he keep his alliance for just one season at least, and have him say, "It'd be wrong -- that's for sure!"?

Well, Ron, I am putting it in your hands, but I'm sure that having experienced Mike's tenderizing mercies yourself, you can see what a superb NIXON AWARD recipient he would be. Mike deserves this recognition, this moment in the sun. Let's make it last the full 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes.

((And there you have the winning essay-nomination for this year's Award! Congrats to Bob Olsen, who wrote the best of many Mazzer nominations, and, of course, congratulations to the 1982 NIXON AWARD WINNER, the "biggest Liar of the Year", Mike Mazzer!-RB))

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| WRAP-UP | | CONTENTS | | |
| As you can see I'm just about out of room for this issue! Next issue will most likely be a double as I have several good letters for print (but just didn't have room for them this time) plus I'd like to publish the remaining NIXON nominations! Till then, as Lady Macbeth said . . . "And fill me from the crown to the toe top full Of direst cruelty; make thick my blood, Stop up the access and passage to remorse. . . And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers." | | <u>STUFF, MORE STUFF.....pgs1-2</u> <u>MUCHADO ABOUT NOTHING#5.....pg.3</u> <u>1982HZ,1982IT.....pg.4</u> <u>1981CT.....pg.5</u> <u>1981AY,1982CO.....pg.6</u> <u>1981D.....pg.7</u> <u>1983F(MM-18),STANDBY LIST,TITLE.....pg.8</u> <u>** The Battle of Four Roads.....pg.9-10</u> <u>THE NIXON AWARD WINNER.....pg.10</u> <u>MM PICTURE PAGE.....pg.11</u> <u>WRAP-UP.....pg.12</u> | | |
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MURD'RING MINISTERS

Ron Brown
1528 El Sereno Pl.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

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Larry Peery
P.O. Box 8416
San Diego, CA

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